

Between April and July 1970, the United States and North Vietnamese forces fought for control of Fire Support Base Ripcord in the A Shau Valley. July of that year saw the heaviest fighting for control of the base. This battle would mark the last major confrontation between U.S. ground forces and North Vietnamese forces in the war. Then-Captain Spaulding was tasked with planning and coordinating all air assets involved in the orderly withdrawal of the two U.S. Companies being besieged at the Base by elements of four North Vietnamese Army divisions.

Although our soldiers fought bravely they were significantly outnumbered by the North Vietnamese. By July 22nd, the United States' position became completely untenable; and due to heavy anti-aircraft fire from the enemy, extraction of U.S. soldiers had to be suspended. Throughout the night the U.S. troops hung on often being forced to engage in hand to hand combat to defend themselves.

On July 23rd—the last day of the battle—Captain Spaulding voluntarily left the safety of Camp Evans to provide direct aid to his besieged comrades and over the course of the day—at great personal risk—he helped safely extract the final U.S. personnel.

According to the official account, Captain Spaulding “took command of a Scout helicopter to locate, mark and direct fire from all available land and air assets against enemy positions. While taking intense fire, Captain Spaulding directly exposed himself to enemy fire while marking enemy positions with smoke grenades. . . . Once the grenades were exhausted Captain Spaulding fired his sidearm at the enemy until his helicopter was rendered inoperable by the mounting enemy fire. When the pilot refused to continue the mission, Captain Spaulding procured a second helicopter. The second aircraft was subsequently damaged by enemy fire, as was the third helicopter that Spaulding obtained. In a fourth helicopter, Captain Spaulding returned to the area of operations to successfully continue the evacuation of the two besieged companies by continuing to draw fire upon himself and the aircraft.”

Major General Benjamin L. Harrison who was Colonel and Commanding Officer of the 3rd Brigade 101st Airborne Division at the time of the Battle of Ripcord, described Captain Spaulding as: “. . . one of the most outstanding combat officers I have observed during my two tours in Vietnam . . . his battle skill was instrumental in saving many lives that day.”

Four years ago, with the support of some of Colonel Spaulding's old comrades, I petitioned the Army to recommend the Colonel for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his action during the Battle of Ripcord. Although the Army concurred that Colonel Spaulding's actions were extraordinary and worthy of suitable recognition, they declined to support the petition for the Congressional Medal of Honor. I personally believe that the Army is wrong in this instance. There is no doubt in my mind that Colonel Spaulding earned the Congressional Medal of Honor that day. Nevertheless, it is my distinct honor to congratulate Colonel Spaulding on his receiving the Distinguished Service Cross.

In addition to his military honors, Colonel Spaulding's leadership and mentoring abilities has been recognized by his peers through membership in the Army Ranger Hall of Fame,

the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame, Distinguished Member of the Regiment (506th Airborne Infantry Regiment), and the presidency of the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

Even after his retirement from the Army, and with the unwavering support of his wife Micki, Colonel Spaulding continued to serve his community, state and country. To his community he donated his time to coach the local high school golf team, and he frequently speaks at various school and association events about the value of military service. To his beloved state of Indiana, he has shared his extensive military experience and knowledge by helping to train the men and women of the Indiana National Guard. To his country, he was instrumental in launching a new company dedicated to national defense and the training of veterans.

Colonel Spaulding's life of service, and his unselfish heroism and acts of bravery while in combat, are an inspiration to all Americans. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding Hoosier! Thank you and congratulations, Colonel.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS L.P.  
O'DONNELL OF HINGHAM, MA

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Thomas L.P. O'Donnell, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to his hometown of Hingham, MA, and to commend him for over fifty years of dedicated service to his community.

Tom is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He was elected First Marshall of his class and has served as an elected director of the Harvard Alumni Association as well as an Overseer of Harvard University. He currently is a retired partner at Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston, where he has practiced law since 1949.

Tom and his wife Carol moved to Hingham in 1955, just three years after they were married. Tom served as a member and chairman of the Advisory Committee and of the Board of Appeals. Mr. O'Donnell was first elected Town Moderator in 1967, and he has been re-elected every year since then. Mr. O'Donnell served in the United States Navy during World War II, and was recalled during the Korean War, attaining the rank of Lieutenant.

Tom has been active in educational, charitable, and civic affairs. He helped in the effort by the Trustees of Reservations to acquire World's End in 1967. This is perhaps the most visited place in Hingham. In 2001, both Tom and his wife, Carol, were recipients of the Alexis de Tocqueville award from the United Way of Massachusetts Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Tom is known for his quick wit, his sense of humor, his loyalty to his friends, and his unquestioned integrity. He had the good fortune to marry Carol in 1952, and they were married for 58 years. They raised four children and have been blessed with nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Thomas L.P. O'Donnell's family, friends, and con-

temporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to his community of Hingham and to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF DR. LEROY T. WALKER

**G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my dear friend, American coaching legend and pioneer, Dr. LeRoy T. Walker or “Doc” as he was affectionately known. Dr. Walker's life touched countless athletes, students and loved ones worldwide before he entered into eternal rest on April 23, at the age of 93.

Born the youngest of 13 children and the grandson of slaves, Dr. Walker's inherent goodwill and tenacity catapulted him to unknown heights, breaking athletic records and color barriers. He excelled at Benedict College as an honor student and varsity tri-athlete in football, basketball and track. Initially, Dr. Walker sought to pursue a career in medicine, but due to extremely long wait lists at medical colleges that would admit African-Americans, he chose another path instead. With his heart set on service, he went on to earn a master's in health and physical education from Columbia University and a doctorate in exercise physiology and biomechanics from New York University.

Dr. Walker knew that his education was not only for his personal betterment, but would benefit his surrounding community as well. Instead of accepting lucrative offers upon graduating, he chose to use his skills in academia in hopes of extending the same opportunities afforded to him.

He began his coaching career in 1945 as the basketball and football coach for N.C. College for Negroes—now known as North Carolina Central University (NCCU). He later founded the college's first track and field team as a way to keep his athletes in shape during the off-season.

It was during his tenure at NCCU, I had the pleasure of meeting and befriending the man with a golden heart. Upon the news of his passing, many of his former athletes expressed condolences, referring to him as the smartest individual they've ever known and always “ahead of the game.”

At the Montreal games in 1976, Dr. Walker placed NCCU and Durham, North Carolina in the public eye, when he was named the first African-American U.S. Olympic track and field coach. The American team brought home 22 medals that year. In total, Dr. Walker coached and mentored 11 Olympic medalists, 30 national champions, and 100 All-Americans.

A man dedicated to both athletics and academics, he served as Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor of the NCCU. His relentless devotion to students in the classroom and on the sports fields compelled the NCCU to grant Dr. Walker the title of Chancellor Emeritus of the university.

In 1986, his dynamic leadership and knack for coaching athletes into medalists led to his induction into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. He later would be named U.S. Olympic Committee President in 1996, the first African-

American to hold the position. When the 1996 Olympic Games took place in his hometown of Atlanta, Dr. Walker as U.S. Olympic Committee President, proudly led the parade of 654 U.S. athletes into the stadium.

Though Dr. Walker is no longer with us in physical presence, his remarkable legacy will be a reminder of what one can achieve if they dare to dream. I hope the full breadth of his life gives his family comfort as they celebrate the legacy of Dr. LeRoy T. Walker.

#### CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3523) to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, security and privacy are not mutually exclusive. The intelligence community—within government and the private sector—has the tools necessary to keep us safe without compromising our civil liberties. Unfortunately, the bill before the House, H.R. 3523, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), treats privacy and civil liberties as obstacles to cybersecurity. Therefore, I oppose this legislation.

Just as the Internet has revolutionized the way people do business, learn, and interact, it has also transformed the nature of the threats against our national security. Every day bad actors—rogue states, terrorist organizations, and hackers—attempt to infiltrate America's cyber networks. Some security experts warn that a cyber attack poses the greatest threat to our national security.

The intent of CISPA is laudable. Cybersecurity experts in government and the private sector agree that the biggest impediments to strengthening cybersecurity are the obstacles preventing the sharing of cyber threat information. If one network is attacked, other networks could benefit from information pertaining to that attack. However, CISPA fails to adequately protect civil liberties in facilitating this information sharing.

CISPA preempts all other provisions of law, including critical privacy laws. The bill does not define "national security" at all, leaving that to the discretion of private entities and the government. The definition of "cybersecurity threat" is too broad and could allow the sharing of private information that does not relate to a real threat. The bill also does not require that the data be scrubbed of key information that may identify individuals. Once this information is shared, it is supposed to be used only for cybersecurity or national security purposes. But again these terms are undefined or only partially defined, leaving open the potential that this information may be abused in a way that does not relate to a real threat.

Strengthening America's cybersecurity is a bipartisan issue. It should be done in a thoughtful and deliberate manner to ensure that we are securing the country while still pro-

tecting our civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Unfortunately, CISPA falls short.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JUDGE ROBERT M. FALASCO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Mr. CARDOZA to honor the life and service of Judge Robert M. Falasco who passed away on March 30, 2012 at the age of 89. Judge Falasco was a true community treasure who served as a mentor, respected leader, and loyal friend. He touched the lives of many in the San Joaquin Valley. His legacy will live on through the numerous contributions he made to Central California, as well as his commitment to justice, fairness, and the law.

Born in 1922 to Dominic and Theresa Falasco, Judge Falasco understood the value of public service early in his life. From 1943 to 1946, he served our nation in the United States Army Air Corps. He then went on to study at Santa Clara University School of Law in California, where he graduated in 1951 and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1952. Judge Falasco was elected to the Merced County Justice Court in 1958, where he served until 1977. He was then appointed to Merced County's Municipal Court, and finally to the Merced County Superior Court in 1982. He retired in 1985.

During his distinguished career, Judge Falasco served the people of Central California admirably. He could always be relied upon to provide fair-minded and knowledgeable rulings. Through his leadership, Judge Falasco became a role model for his friends and neighbors. His compassion and concern for our community served as a testament to his extraordinary character. Judge Falasco not only fulfilled his judicial duties, he also worked for our Valley in a number of capacities. From 1955–1958, he served as a trustee for the Los Banos Elementary School District. For 15 years, Judge Falasco was director of the Merced County Fair Board. He was also a member of the Board of Fellows for Santa Clara University, and played an active role in the building of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School and Memorial Hospital in Los Banos.

Recognizing his honesty and intelligence, as well as his incredible impact on the Valley, the Merced County courthouse in Los Banos was renamed the "Merced County Robert M. Falasco Justice Center" by the City of Los Banos in 2007.

Judge Falasco was a devout Catholic and his good works were often inspired by his faith. In 1975, Pope Paul VI made him a Knight of St. Gregory for his civic and religious contributions.

His innovative spirit was exemplified by his early support of the University of California, Merced. He cared deeply about the San Joaquin Valley and often looked for ways to improve and serve his community. Judge Falasco regarded this as one of the highest honors in his life.

Judge Falasco led an extraordinary life filled with compassion, stewardship, and a deep appreciation for the law. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Yvonne; four children,

Michael, Joan, Anne, and Sally; two sons-in-law; one daughter-in-law; and 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the life and outstanding service of the honorable Robert M. Falasco, a beloved leader and admired scholar.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LAUNCH OF U.S. NAVY SHIP "CESAR E. CHAVEZ"

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Christening and Launch of the United States Navy Ship *Cesar E. Chavez*. May 5, 2012, will mark a historical tribute to Chavez as the United States Navy christens a new dry cargo, ammunition ship in his honor in San Diego, California.

For my colleagues who may not be familiar with the ship's namesake, let me explain who he is. Cesar Chavez has been a symbol of civil rights and fair treatment for workers both within the Latino community, and beyond. However, he was not only a labor leader; Cesar enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served his country throughout the Western Pacific.

Born in the southwest town of Yuma, Arizona on March 31, 1927, Chavez was a first generation American. Like many Mexican-Americans at that time, Cesar Chavez labored in the fields of California farms where he witnessed, firsthand, the injustices and severe conditions of farm worker life. From his experiences, Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association; which later became the United Farm Workers of America. As a policy leader and advocate; Chavez impacted many lives with his commitment and dedication to the movement. Chavez empowered an entire generation and continues to inspire millions of Americans.

Last year, I introduced House Resolution 404, which recognizes the service and sacrifice of Latino members of the Armed Forces as well as Latino veterans. I wish to remember these war heroes, including Cesar E. Chavez, and the stalwart and selfless service of all Latinos who served their country in the 70 years after the start of WWII.

Today, we celebrate and pay tribute to Cesar Chavez, a man whom Senator Robert F. Kennedy described as "one of the heroic figures of our time." Throughout this great nation; many parks, streets, schools and cultural centers have been named in his honor. In my district alone, there is Cesar Chavez Campesino Park and Cesar Chavez High School, both located in Santa Ana, California.

Though not yet a federal holiday, California is proud to be one of only eight states to recognize March 31 as Cesar Chavez Day; A day dedicated to honoring a man of vision, a man that inspired hope and change, and a man whose enduring legacy will live on long past his years. Today, I applaud the United States Navy and their decision to commemorate Cesar Chavez's contributions to this great nation in such a prolific and appropriate display of the respect and recognition he deserves.